

CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what we desire to claim and secure by letters patent is:

5

1

A personnel guidance and location control system for guiding a group of walking pedestrian individuals into a line thereof and controlling movement thereof, said guidance and location control system comprising:

10 a) a ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface;

15 b) at least one end of line element associated with said cover substrate and in a fixed location thereon for defining an end of a line of the group of walking pedestrian individuals and representing a waiting location for the individual at the front end of the line so that the individuals may proceed to a destination in advance of the front end of the line in an orderly and succession manner;

20 c) a plurality of small discrete path forming elements associated with said cover substrate in a fixed location thereon relative to the end of line element and extending from regions in proximity to opposite ends of the end of line element to define a pathway of movement for the group of individuals;

25 d) means associated with said end of line element and small discrete path forming elements for locating

same with the cover substrate, whereby the ground cover substrate and end of line element and small discrete path forming elements can be located on the ground surface presenting a desired pattern to enable the orderly and controlled movement of a group of walking pedestrian individuals into one or more lines of same to a destination; and

e) at least one upstanding guide post located in proximity to an edge of said ground cover substrate to alert the pedestrian in the pathway of a potential change of orientation of the pathway in advance of reaching that change of orientation.

2

The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 1 further characterized in that the guide post comprises a plate and an upstanding member extending from said plate and located at the edge of said substrate.

3

The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 2 further characterized in that said guide post is relatively light in weight and movable from one location to another.

4

The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 1 further characterized in that said guide post does not primarily

serve as a physical barrier but is visually apparent to guide the pedestrian individuals.

5

5 The personnel guidance and location control system of Claim 1 further characterized in that a fastening means is associated with the underside of the end of line element and with the underside of the small discrete path forming elements for securing same to said ground cover substrate.

10

A system for controlling movement and standing locations of pedestrian personnel and presenting informational messages in connection therewith, said system comprising:

- 5 a) a ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface;
- 10 b) at least one element associated with said ground cover substrate for representing a standing or waiting position for a pedestrian individual and in which an activity may take place;
- 15 c) a first informational message located at said substrate and which is substitutable so that a second informational substrate may be readily and quickly substituted at said substrate for said first informational message so that only said second message is visibly presented; and
- 20 d) said substrate comprising a first layer of a relatively rigid material, which is generally transparent allowing an informational message to show therethrough and which provides sufficient weight to the substrate so that edges do not curl when disposed on a ground substrate, and a second layer of a relatively flexible material secured to said first layer and which aids in allowing the substrate to be rolled and also to be treated as a rigid mat.

5 The system of Claim 6 further characterized in that said first information message is located at an underside of said first layer and under said generally transparent first layer so that said first informational message appears directly through said first layer.

10 The system of Claim 6 further characterized in that the element representing a standing or waiting position is removable from said substrate so that a new element can be substituted therefor.

15 The system of Claim 8 further characterized in that said element representing a standing or waiting position is fitted into a recess formed in the ground cover substrate for holding same.

20 The system of Claim 7 further characterized in that the first informational message is ink printed on the underside of the first layer.

The system of Claim 7 further characterized in that the first informational message is printed on a sheet material located at an underside of said first layer.

5

The system of Claim 7 further characterized in that said second informational message can be substituted for said first informational message by applying an applique to said first substrate located over the first informational message.

10

The system of Claim 6 further characterized in that said first layer is comprised of a polycarbonate material and said second layer is comprised of an acrylonitrile butadiene styrene co-polymer.

The system of Claim 13 further characterized in that said first layer has a thickness of no greater than one-fourth inch and said second layer has a thickness of no greater than one-fourth inch.

20

A personnel location and control system comprising at least one mat for guiding and locating a group of pedestrian individuals and also presenting an informational message to said pedestrian individuals during the movement of or standing at a location, said mat comprising:

- a) a ground cover substrate for disposition on a ground surface;
- b) means for presenting a message at an upper surface of said substrate in such manner that the message is observable by the pedestrian individuals during movement or at a standing location; and
- c) said ground cover substrate being comprised of
 - 1) a first layer of a relatively rigid and generally transparent polycarbonate material;
 - 2) a second layer of an acrylonitrile butadiene styrene material; and
 - 3) a bonding layer between said first and second layers to cause a bonding of the two.

The system of Claim 15 further characterized in that a group of elements is associated with said ground cover substrate to define a pathway for guiding the movement of or a standing location for each of the pedestrian individuals.

The system of Claim 16 further characterized in that there is a plurality of small discrete elements defining a pathway of movement for the pedestrian individuals and an elongate element 5 defining an end of the line position for a person at the head of the line of pedestrian individuals.

The system of Claim 15 further characterized in that said 10 first information message is located between said first layer and said second layer.

15

5 A method of controlling the locational movement of one or more pedestrian individuals in a line of such individuals to an end of a line position and to a destination in advance of the end of the line position and simultaneously providing an informational message to said one or more pedestrian individuals, said method comprising:

10 a) providing a ground cover substrate to a ground surface and having an upper surface thereon for walking disposition by said one or more pedestrian individuals;

15 b) providing one or more elements on said upper surface of said substrate to represent a location for said one or more pedestrian individuals in which a particular activity may occur; and

20 c) locating an upstanding physical guide post in proximity to an edge of said ground cover substrate to alert the pedestrians in the pathway of a potential change of orientation of the pathway in advance of reaching that change of orientation.

25 The method of Claim 19 further characterized in that said method comprises locating an informational message on said substrate in a position where the same is readily visible to and viewable by the one or more pedestrian individuals.